

2020-2021 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT AND WORK PLAN

I. MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- A. The Barron County Forest is comprised of 14 compartments with a total of 16,179 re-conned acres *. In addition to the acreages listed below approximately 100 acres are in the process of being re-conned and entered.

Forest Cover:

1. Aspen	4,659 acres
2. Bottomland Hardwoods	18 acres
3. White Birch	18 acres
4. Red Maple	9 acres
5. Northern Hardwoods	2,147 acres
6. Oak	4,995 acres
7. Red Pine	411 acres
8. White Pine	236 acres
9. Black Spruce	24 acres
10. Swamp Hardwoods	300 acres
11. White Spruce	18 acres
12. Tamarack	171 acres

Non-forest cover:

1. Cool Season Grass	42 acres
2. Developed Use	18 acres
3. Emergent Wetland	448 acres
4. Upland grass	30 acres
5. True grasses	4 acres
6. Marsh	492 acres
7. Bog	192 acres
8. Lowland Grass	23 acres
9. Water	47 acres
10. Lowland brush	243 acres
11. Minor lakes	593 acres
12. Minor streams	22 acres
13. Right-of-way	121 acres
14. Shallow Lake	357 acres
15. Upland brush	9 acres
16. Rock outcrops	47 acres
17. Upland Shrub	4 acres
18. Wetland Shrub	295 acres
19. Wetland Shrub - Alder	158 acres

* Totals may not match due to rounding.

- B. The Forest access road system consists of approximately 70 miles of trails and access roads classified under primary and secondary access roads. Details of classification system can be found in Chapter 700 and a map in Chapter 900 of the 2006-2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

II. TIMBER SALE PLANNING AND ESTABLISHMENT

- A. Status of past due close-outs of completed sales.

- Fourteen (14) sales were closed-out in FY 2019. Five (5) sales have or are expected to be closed out in FY 2020.

- B. Timber Sale Revenue

- Timber sale revenue for FY 2019-2020 was \$ 118,114.26.

C. The Fall 2020 Timber Sale Bid Opening was postponed. A spring 2021 bid opening is tentatively scheduled.

D. Active timber sales.

- There are currently three (3) active sales (harvest has been completed and they are in the process of being closed-out). One (1) sale is under contract and has not been opened. One (1) sale remains un-sold.

E. New timber sale development for 2021

- For 2021 approximately 460 acres of timber sale establishment will be completed. The acreage being established consists of northern hardwood thinning, aspen regeneration harvests and pine thinning. Additional acreage may be added pending a boundary dispute.

F. DNR Time Standards County Forest Time Standards

- The goal for DNR hours on Barron County Forest was 478 hours and was met by DNR forestry personnel. The 2020-2021 goal is 478 hours, which will be met by primarily Janette Cain, DNR Liaison Forester.

III. FOREST RECONNAISSANCE

A. Forest reconnaissance is completed following completion of timber sale or when stand is physically entered and then rescheduled. Currently 1.06 % of the Barron County Forest recon is older than 21 years.

IV. FUTURE DESIRED CONDITIONS

The Barron County Forest will see a natural conversion of oak to the northern hardwood cover-type. The county will continue efforts to maintain oak through the use of regeneration harvest, fire and timber stand improvement techniques, in stands that exhibit good oak regeneration potential. The past stands where oak regeneration harvest was done will be monitored for success using WisFIRS program

EAB - Due to the expected rise in the Emerald Ash Borer population the future of the ash species is bleak. Many ash are designated to be cut with each new sale establishment.

Oak Wilt - Efforts will be made to continue to monitor for Oak Wilt, especially in the 2017 tornado valley.

Buckthorn and garlic mustard are the main invasive species. Garlic mustard found in a small area in the northwestern part of the county. Plans are to continue to monitor these areas and treat as necessary.

V. TIMBERSTAND IMPROVEMENT

Areas will continue to be identified for potential T.S.I.

VI. REFORESTATION / REGENERATION

A. Re-forestation of the area around the Arland Rifle range will be prepped for re-forestation.

VII. FOREST PROTECTION

- A. A majority of the Barron County Forest is in the DNR intensive fire protection zones. The Silver Creek and Hay River Compartments are in non-protective zones. Agreements are in place with the appropriate fire departments.

Fire is not normally a problem except during extreme conditions. Barron County has very little conifer type to be of concern.

- B. There have been no major outbreaks of insects or diseases on the County Forest. Specialists are called in whenever something of interest or an unusual nature is detected. Larch beetle is causing some mortality. EAB (emerald ash borer) has been detected in southern Sawyer County. EAB and Gypsy Moth are anticipated to be future problems.

- C. An area of buckthorn was treated in the Silver Cr. Compartment. Work was completed in the fall of 2020. Funding was provided by a Sustainable Forestry Grant.

VIII. MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Barron County has no buildings and/or campgrounds on the County Forest.

- A. Gates. Gates and signs are constructed and maintained with time and monies budgeted in the County Maintenance budget.
- B. Roads and Trails Annually, money is budgeted for maintenance and development of forest access roads. Gates and signs are constructed and maintained with time and monies budgeted in the County Maintenance budget. An existing road to Goose Lake in the Mikana block is be open to public vehicle access. The road is improved with matting and rock by the County's Maintenance staff on an as needed basis.
- C. Property Lines. County surveyor will continue to identify property boundaries as timber sales are set-up. Earlier property lines in need of re-marking will be identified. GIS Department created a "layer" identifying property lines and the dates they were installed.

IX. Aid Monies

- A. Wildlife Habitat Fund for 2020 (\$.05 / ac.) monies were spent establishing fruit tree plantings for wildlife. 2021 funds will continue to be used for future plantings.

- B. County Conservation Aids

- 2020-2021 Allocation will be directed to the maintenance of water control structures and beaver control primarily in the Bear Lake and Narrow-Gauge Compartments.

X. GIS - BARRON COUNTY FOREST

Additional roads and trails will be added to the database if and when they are developed.

XI. LAND PURCHASES, SALES, EXCHANGES WITHIN COUNTY FOREST

No land purchases were made in 2020.

XII. Permits

- A. Eight (8) firewood permits were issued in 2020. Revenue generated was \$ 200.00.
- B. Three (3) permits were issued in 2020 to allow disabled individuals motorized access to the county forest.
- C. Three (3) Christmas Permits were issued. Revenue generated was \$22.17.

XIII. INTERACTION WITH OTHER GROUPS

- A. Snowmobile Clubs - Whenever possible, segments of the Barron County snowmobile trail system are placed within the Barron County Forest. To the greatest extent possible, trails are placed on existing forest access roads. Such placement often eliminates need for brushing on such segments. Disruption of snowmobile trails for logging is usually minimal. The Conservation Deputy works closely with all snowmobile and ATV clubs in the County.
- B. Skiing - The Barron County Forest has a ½ mile lighted cross-country ski trail in the Waterman Lake block. Site includes a parking lot and warming house. Members of the Ice Age Trail developed and placed an information Kiosk along with paving the parking lot with the cooperation of the Barron County Highway Department. All are maintained by the Cumberland Area Ski Touring Association (CASTA). The County provides annual funding to assist in the maintenance of this resource.

The Recreation Deputy / Trail Coordinator from the Barron County Sheriff's Department will take responsibility of co-coordinating activities on the County trail systems.

XIV. RECREATION

- A. Parks and Campgrounds - No parks or campgrounds are located on the Barron County Forest.
- B. Boat Landings - Boat landings on the Forest are undeveloped with carry-in access only.
- C. All Terrain Vehicles - Most of the Barron County Forest is closed to ATV use. The 15-year Forest Plan allows use of ATV's in County Forest after case-by-case review by the Property Committee.

In 2020 an ATV trail was completed in Bear Lk. Township. In 2021 a 2 mile trail will be completed in the Cedar Lk. Compartment east of the Loch-Lomond development.

- D. Snowmobile Trails - Approximately 9 miles of funded snowmobile trails are located in the forest.

In 2020 culverts were replaced in Bear Lk. and Maple Plain Townships.

- E. Snowshoeing - A 2 ½ mile snowshoe trail was completed in 2001 with an additional 2 mile loop in 2002. Total of 4 ½ miles of three connecting loops have been signed, brushed, and ready for snow since early in 2002.

F. Rifle Range - A rifle range is located in the Hay River block of the County Forest. In 2014 a DNR Grant provided funding for the installation of new shooting benches with covers, a new pit toilet, blacktop paths connecting the parking area to all ranges, a security gate (powered to open and close at night, or when range needs to be closed). Entrance road was improved with addition of gravel. Future additions may include the construction of an archery range.

G. The National Ice Age Trail - traverses several compartments of the forest. Portions of the trail are found in the following compartments: Cedar Lake, Bear Lake and Waterman Lake.

Parts of the above-mentioned snowshoe trail uses a portion of the Ice Age Trail in the Waterman Lake block. The Ice Age Trail is always protected by timber sale contract provisions, when a timber sale comes in contact with the trail.

In 2021 parts of the IAT will be re-routed in the Cedar Lk. compartment.

H. Equestrian Trails - Two trails along with a horse trailer camping area are established in the Narrow-Gauge Compartment. Establishment and maintenance were supplied by and is the responsibility of the Barron County Horse Trail Association.

I. Turtle Creek Handicap Fishing Piers. Two (2) aluminum fishing piers are installed on Turtle Cr. The piers are retractable and provide safe access for handicapped individuals fishing the creek. Monies were provided by Barron County's County Conservation allotment.

J. Mountain Bike Trails. A Mountain bike trail was established in the Doyle block of the county forest. Five (5) loops were constructed containing approximately 4.5 miles. A second system of trails was developed in the Silver Creek Management unit. Construction and maintenance will be performed in cooperation with CORBA (Chippewa Off Road Bicycle Association).

XV. OTHER TOPICS

A. Wisconsin County Forest Association Meetings - A representative from the Property Committee and Forest Administrator have been active participants in WCFA activities and committees. Barron County will continue such participation as a means of keeping up with new ideas from other Counties, to find solutions to Barron County problems and to have a voice in legislation at the state and national level.

B. Fifteen Year Plan Activities

In 2020 - 2021 a revised 15-Year Plan is being prepared.

C. Forest Certification - Barron County was not involved in any Certification Audits in 2020.

D. D.N.R. Financial Audit.

In 2020 a financial audit was conducted by the Department of Natural Resources.